DOE–GJO and McInnis' Office Collaborate on Computer Donations

Excess computer equipment from the DOE Grand Junction Office is readied for transfer to the School District 51 Career Center in Grand Junction.

The School District 51 Career Center in Grand Junction, Colorado, got a boost from a donation of excess computer equipment last fall. The donation was a collaborative effort between Congressman Scott McInnis' Operation S.E.E.D.S. (Sharing Electronic Equipment District and Statewide) and the U.S. Department of Energy Grand Junction Office (DOE–GJO).

The equipment, which totaled 97 IBM-compatible central processing units, 84 monitors, 22 laptop computers, 47 printers, and a collection of other miscellaneous computer accessories, was excess to DOE's needs. The donation also included computer systems and other electronic equipment transferred to DOE–GJO from the Grand Junction office of DOE Oak Ridge National Laboratory, now managed by contractor Advanced Infrastructure Management Technologies (AIMTech).

The S.E.E.D.S. Program was started in 1996 as a coalition effort to provide for the transfer of excess scientific and technological equipment to schools and educationally related nonprofit organizations in the four corner states of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. S.E.E.D.S. is federally authorized program that operates under the authority of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Act of 1980.

Congressman Scott McInnis initiated the program in Colorado to benefit the citizens of the Third Congressional District. "The S.E.E.D.S. Program is a prime example of how smarter, more efficient government can have a positive impact on American communities. It's a groundbreaking program that's being emulated around the country and I'm proud to be its sponsor," said McInnis.

"We're very appreciative of this generous gift we received from the Department of Energy and S.E.E.D.S.," said Dean Blair, principal of the Career Center. The Career Center is a vocational school for District 51 high school students. The center offers six programs for students to choose from, including a computer maintenance operations program.

The Career Center's computer program was started in 1999, and the center has its own computer laboratory where students learn how to assemble and repair computers. The repaired computers are then sent to District 51 schools and to children who do not have access to computers in their homes. "Our goal is to get 200 computers out to kids this school year," said Blair. He estimated this batch of computers would keep his Career Center students busy for several months.

Primary target recipients of S.E.E.D.S. equipment include high-risk, low-income, disadvantaged youth and Native American populations in rural America. Entities in Colorado that wish to donate computers or other scientific equipment or to receive

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The Western Colorado Science Fair attracted 185 junior-level (grades seven and eight) entries and 40 senior-level (grades nine through twelve) entries from 13 counties on the Western Slope. The top 10 junior entries and the top 6 senior entries competed in the state competition.

Twelve DOE and contractor employees volunteered as judges at the 2000 science fair. “I was personally very impressed with not only the quality of the judging but also the professional manner in which the judging was accomplished,” wrote Forbes Davidson, former co-director of the Western Colorado Science Fair. For the third year, DOE–GJO contractor *WASTREN, Inc.,* was a co-sponsor of the fair. *WASTREN, Inc.,* contributed $500 to the fair and awarded junior and senior division environmental sciences certificates and checks.

During his spring break from school, Williams and his father, Dave Williams, requested a tour of the GJO laboratories. Ron Chessmore, a *WASTREN, Inc.,* employee and Laboratory Manager for the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory, and Sarah Morris, a MACTEC–ERS scientist in the Environmental Sciences Laboratory, explained the projects being worked on, the laboratory and computer equipment used, and the types of analyses being performed in the laboratories. “Brandon was obviously very interested in science, especially chemistry,” said Morris. “I hope the tour helped shape his career goals in some area of science.”❖

S.N.A.R.F. Science Camp (continued from page 28)

comments. One parent wrote, “Every day was packed with activities. I kept thinking, how will they top this tomorrow? But each day had a full and exciting agenda.”

This was the first S.N.A.R.F. Science Camp to be conducted in Grand Junction. The camp originated 2 years ago in a small town in south-central Idaho and was a success. DOE–GJO plans to make the camp an annual event and possibly offer more than one session based on the long waiting list for last year’s camp.❖

The molecular structure of a compound fascinates a student at the S.N.A.R.F. Science Camp.

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donated equipment must apply through the S.E.E.D.S. Program main office in Pueblo, Colorado.

This is the first time DOE–GJO has coordinated its computer donation through S.E.E.D.S. “DOE is pleased to learn about the S.E.E.D.S. Program, which provides us with a simplified way to excess our equipment and still have it go to needy schools and qualifying organizations throughout Colorado,” said Audrey Berry, DOE–GJO Public Affairs Specialist.

In addition to the equipment donated to the local school district, AIMTech also donated 17 computer systems, 3 laptops, and 7 printers through S.E.E.D.S. to the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning in Denver, Colorado.❖